

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated February 23, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire May 24, 2004. In the present Amendment, Claim 30 is amended and claims 19 and 31-32 are cancelled. Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 13-16, 18, 20-21, 23, 25 and 27-28 and 30 are now pending.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

In paragraph 7 of the present Office Action, Applicant note with appreciation that Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 13-16, 18, 20-21, 23, 25 and 27-28 are allowed. Thus, the only Claim still at issue is Claim 30.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In paragraph 6 of the present office action, Claim 32 is rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Jondrow et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,416,479 – “*Jondrow*”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, and request a notice of allowance of Claim 30, whose proposed current amendment incorporates all of the features of Claim 32 and intervening Claim 31.

Applicants note with appreciation the teleconference held on July 28, 2004 with Examiner LeFlore and Supervisor Shalwala. An agreement was reached at that teleconference that the cited art does not teach the limitations of Claim 32 and its base claims. Specifically, it was agreed that link 34 contained conductive strips (wires), but not a switch. Therefore, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest “first, second and third members each having a respective input switch.”

CONCLUSION

Applicants therefore respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 50-0563**.

Respectfully submitted,



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